Right to Information Bill

† 457. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Right to Information Bill has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament;

(b) if so, when this Bill was passed;

(c) whether it has come into force as a law of the land;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the above said law is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Freedom of Information Bill, 2002', as passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 2002 and 16th December, 2002 respectively, received the assent of the President on 6th January, 2003 and The Freedom of Information Act, 2002' has been published in the Gazette of India on 7th January, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The notification of rules to be framed under the Act, as also setting up of the basic infrastructure, requires inter-ministerial/ departmental consultations as well as consultations with State Governments. As soon as this is completed, action shall be taken to notify the date from which the Act shall come into force.

Reduction of retirement age

458. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of reducing the retirement age of the Central Government employees from the present age of 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reasons behind the move to reduce it to 58 years; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.